

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for taking up liquid analytes, having a microtitre plate with plurality of wells for taking up an analyte, a plurality of pipettes above the wells, by which an analyte can be withdrawn from an associated well, at least one pump, which is coupled to several pipettes in such a way that an analyte can in each case be sucked through an associated pipette by means of the pump, and analytes can be simultaneously sucked out of several wells or introduced into several wells by actuating the pump, having analysis chips for analyzing the analyte, one analysis chip being in each case assigned to a well in order to analyze an analyte introduced into the respective well, wherein each analysis chip comprises a plurality of liquid channels, wherein each analysis chip is arranged between its respective well and pipette in the flow path of the analyte from the well into the pipette or from the pipette into the well such that the analyte is sucked through the liquid channels of the analysis chip, and wherein a surface of at least a part of the liquid channels of the analysis chips, which surface comes into contact with the analyte, is designed in such a way that biological material for binding molecules contained in the analyte can be fixed on the surface.
2. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising an upper bodies coupled to lower bodies, the lower bodies having the pipettes, wherein a further plate is arranged between the upper bodies and the lower bodies.

3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim [[1]] 2, in which the analysis chips are arranged in the further plate.
6. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the surface of at least a part of the surface of liquid channels of the analysis chips, which surface comes into contact with the analyte, has biological material for binding the molecules contained in the analyte.
7. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the microtitre plate has 96 wells or 384 wells for taking up an analyte.
8. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which an elastic diaphragm is ~~in each case~~ arranged over at least [[some]] one of the pipettes, so that analyte can be sucked out of the corresponding well or introduced into the corresponding well by deforming the diaphragm.
9. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which a buffer plate is provided for each pipette, in order to mix the analyte delivered by the pipette.
10. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the pump is operated in such a way that analyte is sucked at a pressure which is less than an analyte surface tension possibly formed in the pipette.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The amendments clarify the patentable invention without adding new subject matter. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early allowance of all pending claims.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, Jeffrey R. Stone at 952 253-4130.

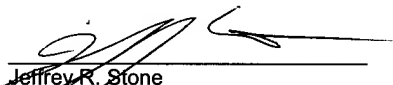
Respectfully submitted,

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